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Analise Barker
Utah State University

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Stakeholders' perceptions of parent involvement in young adults' intercollegiate athletic careers: Policy, education, and desired student-athlete outcomes

Analise Barker, *Utah State University* | Student, *Utah State University*

Introduction

PARENT INVOLVEMENT is an integral, but potentially problematic, aspect of a student-athlete's college career, especially during the initial transition to college life (Kirk & Kirk, 1993; Wylleman & Lavallee, 2004).

Despite this, there is little **EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH** or **CAMPUS LEVEL PROGRAMMING** targeted at parents of NCAA student-athletes.

The **PURPOSE** of the present research was to identify stakeholder's perceptions of the impact of parent involvement on student-athlete development.

Methods

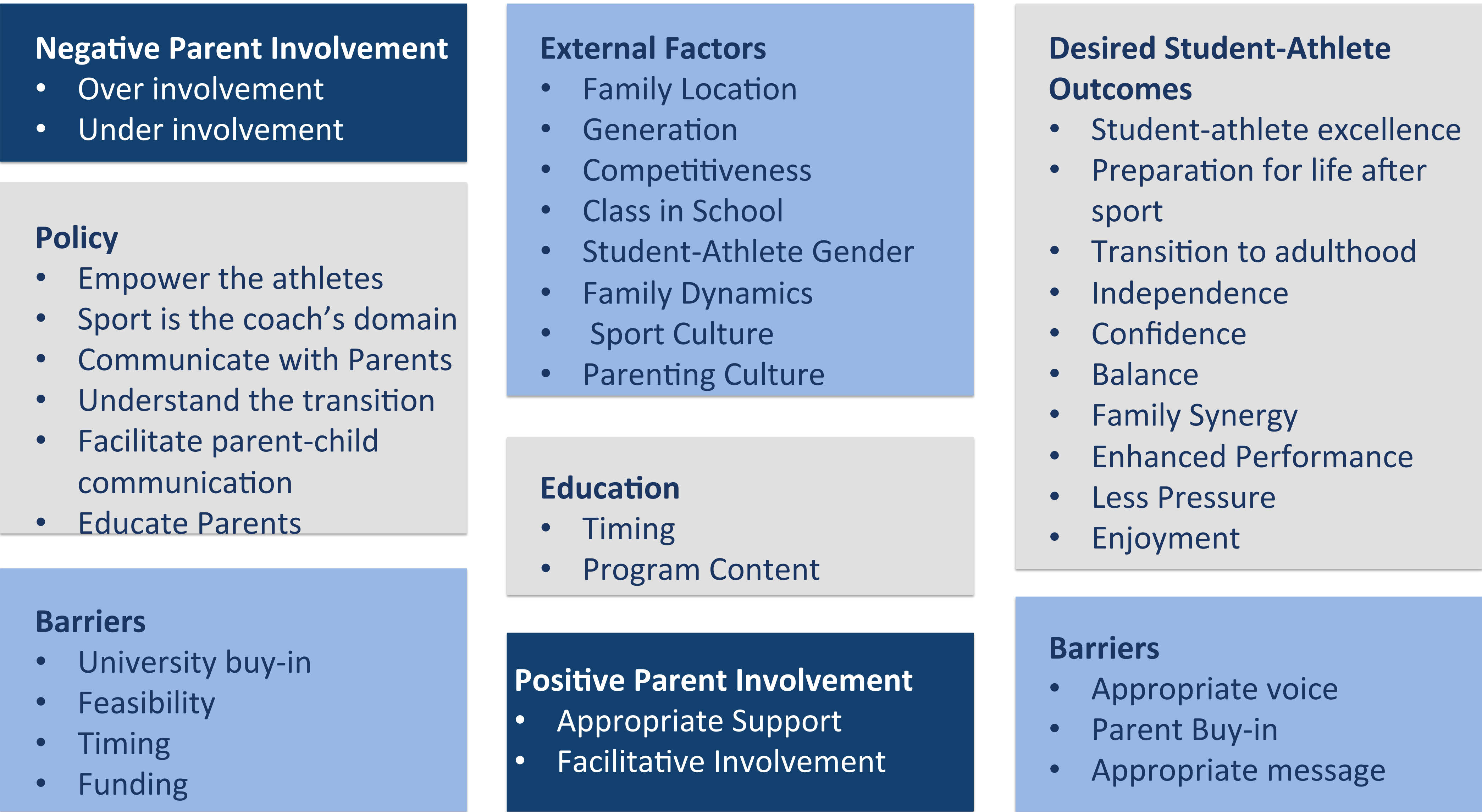
Participants
Twenty-five coaches from 19 different intercollegiate sports and four senior administrators from Utah State University and Purdue University.

Procedures
Participants took part in face-to-face, semi-structured interviews designed to tap key stakeholder experiences of parent involvement in NCAA athletes' lives and to understand how participants would structure parent education if given the opportunity. Data were synthesized to create a grounded theory of parent involvement in the lives of NCAA student-athletes (Figure 1).



Analise Barker
Utah State University
Department of Psychology
Analise.Barker@aggiemail.usu.edu

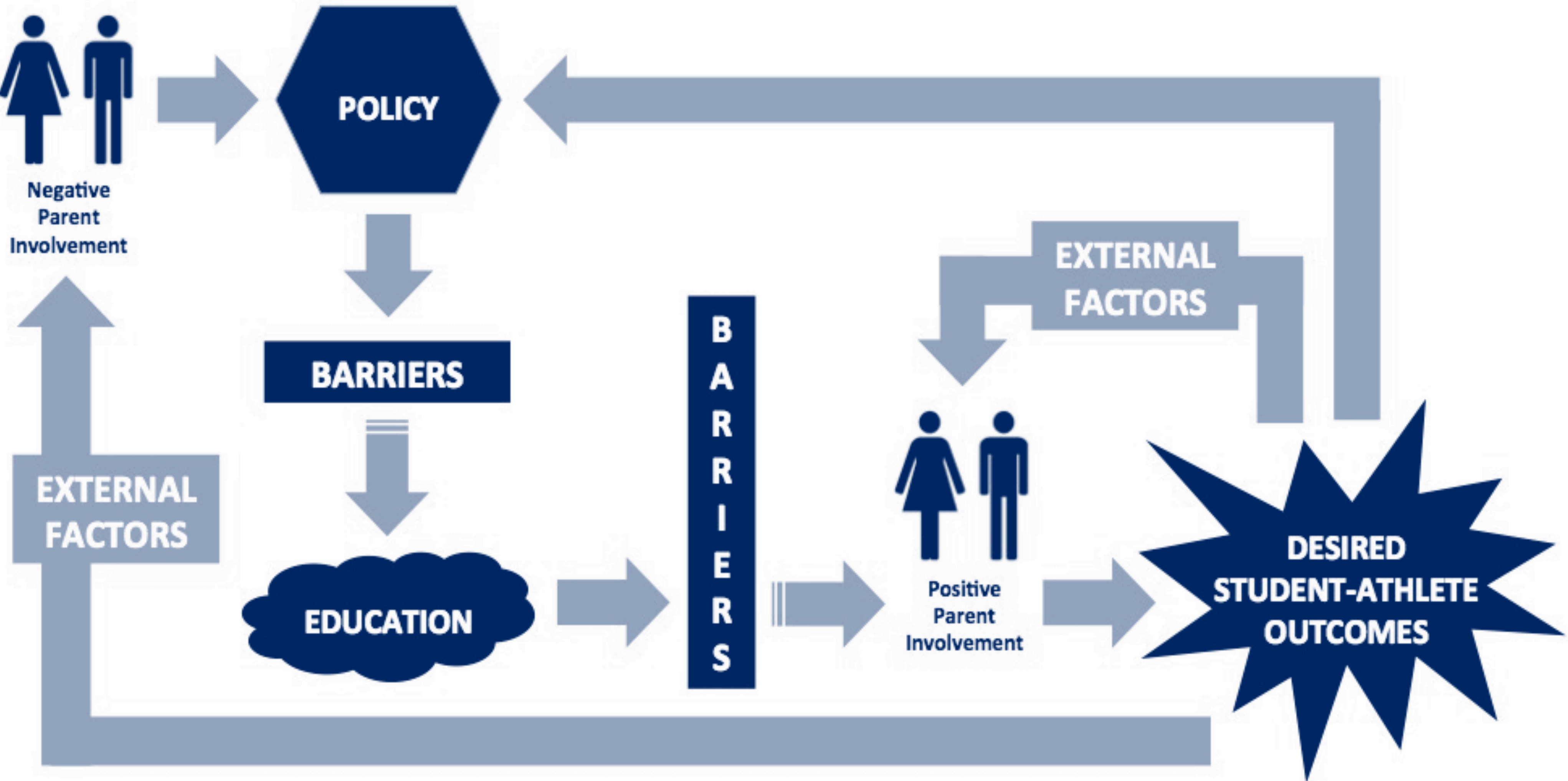
Results



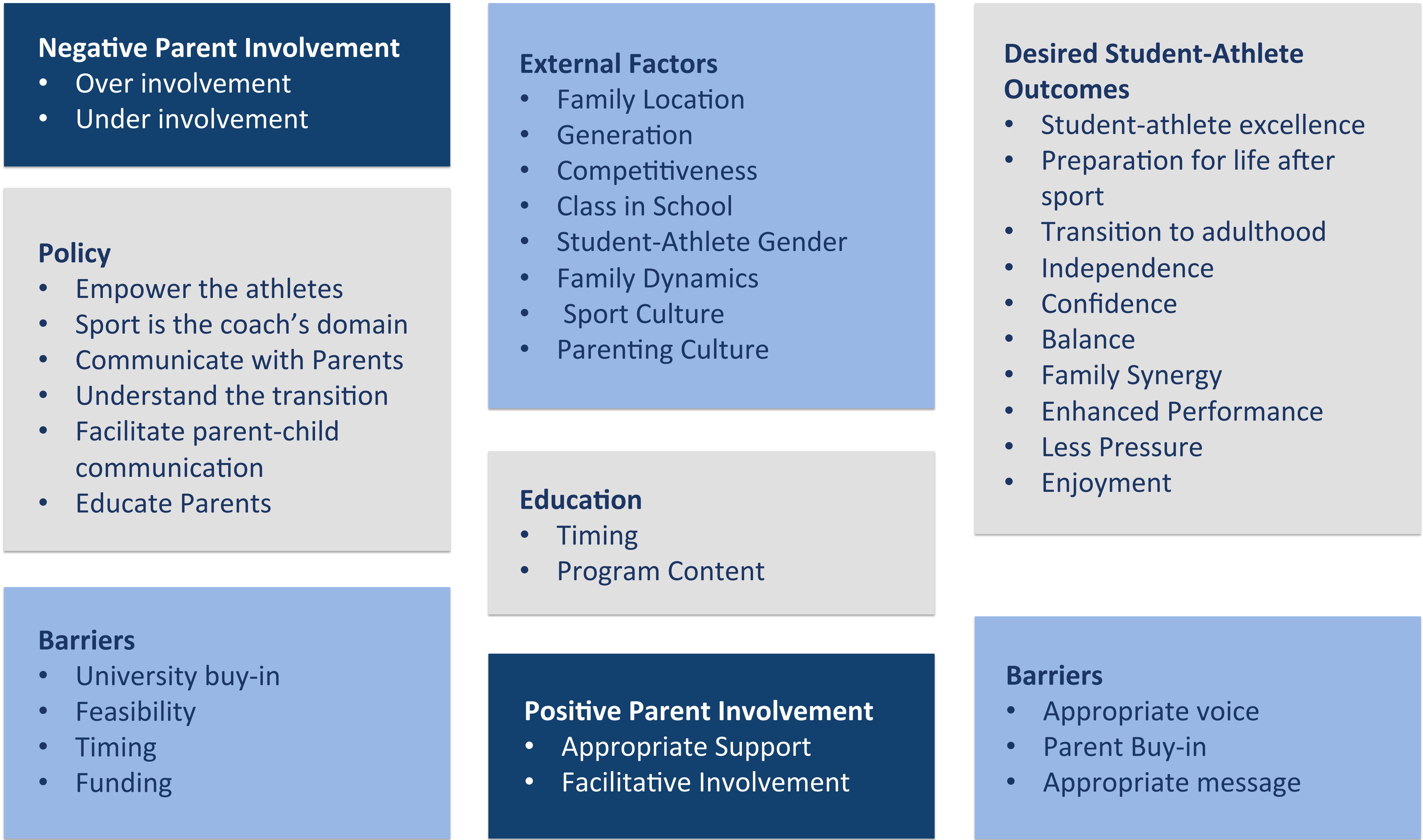
Discussion

Findings underscore the importance of **POLICY CREATION** and **OVERCOMING BARRIERS** in the implementation of parent education as university administrators and coaches aim to achieve desired outcomes for student-athletes (Côté, 1999; Arnett, 2000; 2004).

Figure 1. A grounded theory of parent education in NCAA athletics



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Negative Parent Involvement

- Over involvement
- Under involvement

Policy

- Empower the athletes
- Sport is the coach’s domain
- Communicate with Parents
- Understand the transition
- Facilitate parent-child communication
- Educate Parents

Barriers

- University buy-in
- Feasibility
- Timing
- Funding

Education

- Timing
- Program Content

Barriers

- Appropriate voice
- Parent Buy-in
- Appropriate message

Positive Parent Involvement

- Appropriate Support
- Facilitative Involvement

Desired Student-Athlete Outcomes

- Student-athlete excellence
- Preparation for life after sport
- Transition to adulthood
- Independence
- Confidence
- Balance
- Family Synergy
- Enhanced Performance
- Less Pressure
- Enjoyment

External Factors

- Family Location
- Generation
- Competitiveness
- Class in School
- Student-Athlete Gender
- Family Dynamics
- Sport Culture
- Parenting Culture